



SOUTH AMERICA: In central Argentina, continued dry weather favored late winter wheat planting, but topsoil moisture is becoming limited. Temperatures averaged near normal, with the lowest temperatures ranging from -1 to -3 degrees C. According to the Argentine Agriculture Secretariat as of August 4, wheat was 86 percent planted, compared with 90 percent planted last year. In the Buenos Aires, wheat was 81 percent planted. Nationwide, corn harvesting was nearly completed. In the north, cotton harvesting slightly progressed in Chaco. In southern Brazil, light to moderate rain (5-20 mm) extended from southern Mato Grosso do Sul southward into northern Rio Grande do Sul, maintaining adequate soil moisture for winter wheat. Temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal across southern Brazil.